



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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Beat Back Buffelgrass at Saguaro National Park

Join the U of A softball team to remove buffelgrass from parks and public lands on Saturday, January 28, 2012

Tucson, AZ-- Saguaro National Park will host a Beat Back Buffelgrass event at the Park's Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) on January 28, 2012.

Hundreds of volunteers will join the fight against this growing environmental problem for the 5th Annual Beat Back Buffelgrass Day, including Coach Mike Candrea and the University of Arizona's Women's Softball Team. Each of the 20 Lady Cats will be recruiting 25 friends to participate in the volunteer day (500 participants). In addition, the Boy Scouts and area high schools are recruiting volunteers. Sahuarita High School, Walden Grove High School, Marana High School, and Mountain View High School have committed to the competition.

"We cannot let this invasive grass destroy our unique Sonoran Desert environment and quality of life," said Superintendent Darla Sidles. "The Buffelgrass invasion is threatening to transform the diverse Sonoran Desert into a flammable and impoverished savanna, affecting both natural and urban areas."

The Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center (SABCC) has organized Beat Back Buffelgrass Day since 2010. This year, SABCC is the lead organizer with collaboration from the Pima Association of Governments (www.pagnet.org), Tucson Electric Power (www.tep.com), and other partners.

Additional information on buffelgrass can be found at the Saguaro National Park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/naturescience/invasive-plants.htm>.

Individuals and groups can volunteer in Saguaro National Park or at two dozen other locations in and around Tucson by registering at www.buffelgrass.org.

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